



# University of Minnesota Research Update: 2004-2005



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I've come to realize that there is no "normal" year when you work in the turf industry. The past three winters are proof of that. Well, at the University, there doesn't seem to be any sense of normality from year to year either. The University just announced wide-spread changes, from colleges being closed or merged, to the creation of a new honors college and school of design. Our college, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, will merge with the College of Natural Resources if the Board of Regents approves President Bruinink's Strategic Positioning Plan. We aren't quite sure what this will mean for the turf program as within these two colleges, there are 20 individual departments and it has been suggested that that number will be reduced significantly. This planning process to make the University of Minnesota a top public research institution has been ongoing for the past year. Implementation of the strategies will start Jan. 1, 2006.

### Strategic Positioning Plan

Prior to the Strategic Positioning Plan becoming public, a blow to the turf program occurred. We were told that all of our planning for a building at the TROE Center was null. This is very unfortunate as we made sure that all our "i's" were dotted and "t's" were crossed when proposing the TROE Center concept within the University. This included having the Board of Regents agree to the concept. Many of you took this personally as you have spent countless days in meetings discussing how to make the turf program the best it can be. I took this personally as I have spent the last four years selling this idea to many of you.

Standing back and considering the ramifications of not completing the TROE Center, I cannot help but think that your trust in the University is wavering at this point. I cannot blame you if you have these feelings. You have supported the turf program

both monetarily and through in-kind gifts of products and services. I have calculated that the turf industry in Minnesota has contributed in excess of \$750,000 to achieve what we have today – an excellent field research facility.

Many of the projects that were written about last year and published in Hole Notes are ongoing. These projects includes:

### NTEP Trials

We have been very successful at obtaining all the cool-season NTEP trials including bentgrass greens and fairway, fine fescue, perennials, ryegrass and

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National Turfgrass Evaluation Program  
Perennial Ryegrass Trial



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